

Statistical Brief



Prepared by the State Center for Health Statistics

For the Council on Health Policy Information

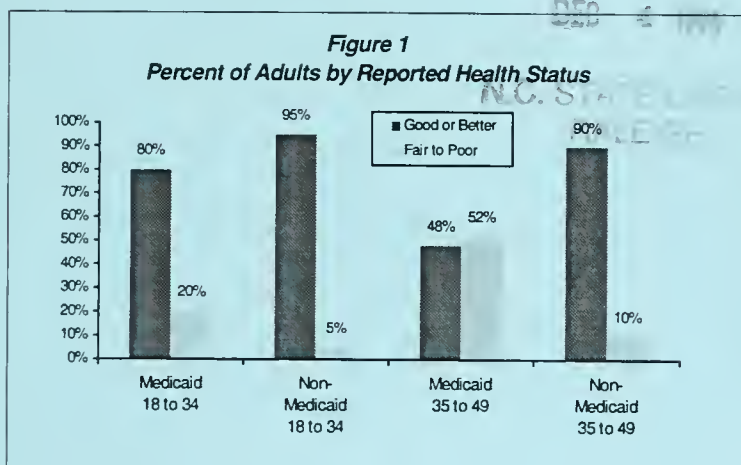
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HEALTH STATUS AND ACCESS TO ROUTINE CARE – North Carolina Adults Under Age 50 by Medicaid Status

According to a recent telephone survey of North Carolina households, adult (age 18 and over) Medicaid enrollees are less healthy than are non-Medicaid adults. Health status in this case was assessed using five indicators: a general self-report of health status (Poor to Excellent); reported limitations on physical activities; number of times hospitalized during last year; number of visits to the emergency room during last year; and the occurrence of a major health problem during last year.

Medicaid enrollees had more routine care visits and were more likely than non-Medicaid adults to report problems getting to or from their source of routine care. Additionally, Medicaid enrollees were more likely to use the hospital or emergency room as a source of routine care.

The data for this Statistical Brief are from the North Carolina Health Profile (NCHP), a telephone survey of North Carolina households. The NCHP consists of three modules – adult health survey, child health survey, and a young child survey (newborn to six years). The information in this Statistical Brief is from the adult health module. The adult health survey was designed to collect data on health status, access to care, and attitudes about health care issues. The survey was administered by the Survey



Research Unit (SRU) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The analysis of the survey is being conducted by the State Center for Health Statistics.

In 1994, a goal of the state's Health Planning Commission was to change the focus of the current health system from a "curative medical system" to "one that focuses on keeping people healthy."¹ With this in mind, this Brief focuses on the present health status and access to routine (preventive) care among adults under age 50. Data for ages 50 to 64, and 65 and over are presented in separate Briefs^{2, 3}.

A higher percentage of Medicaid enrollees reports fair to poor health (Figure 1).

- Compared to non-Medicaid individuals, Medicaid enrollees reported more often their health as being fair to poor.
- Over half of Medicaid enrollees aged 35 to 49 reported having fair to poor health. This is much greater than the 10 percent reported by non-Medicaid individuals in the same age group.

